Heteromastus filobranchus Berkeley & Berkeley, 1932

Capitellidae

SCAMIT Code: AHF 27, MBC 26, OC 54
Date examined: February 7, 1985
Voucher by: Susan Williams

Literature:
Berkeley & Berkeley, 1932
Hartman, 1947, 1969

Diagnostic characters:
1. Thorax with 11 setigers: 1-5 with capillaries; 6-11 with hooded hooks.
2. Setiger 1 biramous.
3. Proboscis papillated; first 5 setigers slightly areolated.
4. Transition thorax to abdomen not abrupt.
5. Abdominal segments at first long and cylindrical, then progressively shorter, finally becoming longer in the last 20 segments before pygidium.
6. Branchiae begin about 30th abdominal setiger, each a simple digitate dorsal process just behind the notopodium; filaments gradually increase in length and number to 12 or more.
7. Methyl green staining: thorax uniformly light green EXCEPT for the last segment, which is dark. Abdomen stains lightly, if at all.

Related species and differences:
Heteromastus filiformis (see Hutchings & Rainer, 1981 for redescription).
1. Distinct gills absent. However, Hutchings & Rainer describe..."gills short, broadly-based rounded lamellae projecting posteriorly over the adjacent segment, commencing about segment 100, well-developed by segment 120."
2. Prostomium longer.
3. Demarkation at thorax/abdomen: abdomen larger.
4. Methyl green staining: uniform light green thorax; abdomen with dark green stripes connecting the parapodia of each segment.

Distribution:
Western Canada to southern California; shelf and canyon depths; mud.
Fig. 1. Thoracic uncinus;
Fig. 2. Closeup of branchial tuft;
Fig. 3. Branchial segments, dorsal view;
Fig. 4. Abdominal uncinus;
Fig. 5. Caudal end
(1-5 from Hartman, 1969).
Fig. 6. Anterior end, lateral view.